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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/466,400 12/17/99 FRIEDOW

HL
M 10191/1172

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MM91/0213

EXAMINER

LEON, E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED:

02/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/466,400

Applicant(s)

FRIEDOW ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed November 20, 2000 in which new claim 16 has been added, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Togashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,470). With regard to Claim 1, Togashi discloses a device for contacting an electrically operated apparatus, comprising: at least one terminal contact on a side of the apparatus, the at least one terminal contact being oriented parallel to an installation direction of the apparatus; and a plug (50) including at least one sleeve contact (11), the at least one sleeve contact (11) and the at least one terminal contact being adapted to be assembled together parallel to the installation direction. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 2, Togashi discloses the at least one sleeve contact (11) including two concentric sleeve contacts (11), the at least one terminal contact including two concentric terminal contacts, the two sleeve contacts connecting to the two terminal contacts. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 3, Togashi discloses the sleeve contacts (11) are each in contact with the terminal contacts on an outside circumference when joined together. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 4, Togashi discloses the terminal contacts have two contact plates bent into a cylindrical shape and situated on an end of a casing of the apparatus. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 5, Togashi discloses insulation situated between the terminal contacts. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 6, Togashi discloses the insulation includes an insulating sleeve composed of a plastic. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 7, Togashi discloses a back wall (56) of the plug acts as a further insulation which, together with the insulation between the terminal contacts, form two contact chambers insulated from one another. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 8, Togashi discloses the at least one sleeve contact (11) includes an interior sleeve contact and an exterior sleeve contact, a printed conductor of the interior sleeve contact passing through a recess in the exterior sleeve contact. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 9, Togashi discloses the at least one sleeve contact (11) includes a cylindrical segment. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 10, Togashi discloses the at least one sleeve contact (11) having polygonal cross section. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 11, Togashi discloses the at least one sleeve contact (11) has a diameter so as to overcome a predetermined contacting force when connected. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 12, Togashi discloses the sleeve contacts (11) have inclined insertion guides. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 13, Togashi discloses a plurality of punched grid conductors (101) connected to the plug (50). See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5 and 20-22.

With regard to Claim 14, Togashi discloses a first of the sleeve contacts (11) and a first of the punched grid conductors (101) are a one-piece unit, and a second of the sleeve contacts (11) and a second of the punched grid conductors (101) are a one-piece unit. See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5 and 20-22.

With regard to Claim 15, Togashi discloses the sleeve contacts (11) are formed by one of bending and folding the punched grid conductors (101). See Column 5, Lines 6-13 and Figs. 1-5 and 20-22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Togashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,470) in view of Beloritsky (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,540). With regard to Claim 15, Togashi discloses the claimed invention except for the sleeve contact being configured to substantially surround a respective one of the terminal contacts when the at least one sleeve contact and the at least one terminal contact are assembled.

Beloritsky discloses a contact (10) which surrounds a terminal contact (25). See Figs. 1-3.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Togashi by including a contact which surrounds a terminal contact as taught in Beloritsky to improve the electrical connection between both contacts.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed November 20, 2000 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the reference does not show sleeve contact being configured to substantially surround a respective one of the terminal contacts when the at least one sleeve contact and the at least one terminal contact are assembled as supposedly disclosed on Claim 1, Applicant is reminded that this limitation is newly disclosed in Claim 16 and was not disclosed on Claim 1. Therefore, a new rejection has been done for the new limitation. Claim 1, however is still readable on Togashi as Togashi does show sleeve contact and the terminal contact adapted to be assembled together.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

P. Bradley